

CLAIMS:

1. Gaming apparatus comprising:

a user interface comprising:

5 first display means for displaying a plurality of player symbols arranged in main game player sets each comprising a sequence of symbols and each corresponding to a respective one of a group of main games; and

10 second display means for displaying a plurality of randomly-selected symbols arranged in main game random sets each comprising a sequence of symbols and each corresponding to a respective one of said main games; and

input means operable by the user for selecting symbols to form a sequence thereof, the first display means being operable to display that sequence as a main game player set;

15 and processing means for selecting said randomly-selected symbols, said processing means further incorporating calculating means operable to calculate (i) a main game win for a player by comparing a main game player set with a corresponding main game random set, and (ii) a bonus game win for a player by comparing a bonus symbol set formed by the symbols at a
20 predetermined position in the sequences of the main game player sets with a random bonus game set formed by the symbols at a predetermined position in the sequences of the main game random sets.

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the symbols in each main game player set forms part of a respective bonus symbol set for which the calculating means is operable to calculate a win.

5 3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the machine is operable to determine at random, for each main game, whether a bonus game is to be awarded, and to perform the step of calculating a bonus game win in dependence on the result of said determination.

10 4. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the machine is operable to determine, for each main game, a random number of bonus games to be awarded, and to perform the step of calculating a bonus game win for each of said random number of bonus symbol sets.

15 5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the machine is operable to randomly select symbols to supplement player-selected symbols used in previous main games in order to form one or more bonus symbol sets, the number of supplementary symbols being dependent on the number of displayed main game player sets.

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6. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the machine is operable to substitute randomly-selected symbols for already-

selected symbols used in previously-played main games so as to affect subsequent bonus game win calculations.

7. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the
5 processing means is operable to randomly select the symbols of each main-game random set using a "without replacement" procedure from a predetermined larger set, whereby the possibility of duplicate symbols within a main game random set is avoided, while duplicate symbols may appear within bonus game sets.

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8. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the machine is operable to arrange the symbols selected by the player in a random manner to obtain the sequence forming a main game player set.

15 9. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein, within each main game player set, the symbols are displayed in a sequence corresponding to the order in which they were selected.

20 10. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the symbols within each main game player set are alpha-numerical, and are arranged within each set in alpha-numerical order.

11. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, including means for selecting symbols to be treated by the calculating means as wild card symbols for the purpose of calculating bonus game wins.

5 12. Gaming apparatus comprising:

a user interface comprising input means operable by the user for selecting sequences of symbols to form main game sets, each main game set comprising symbols selected from a predetermined larger set, and display means for displaying player-selected symbols and for displaying an array of
10 randomly-selected symbols, the symbols of the array being arranged in main game sets each corresponding to a respective main game, and the symbols within each main game set being arranged in a predetermined sequence; and

processing means for selecting said randomly-selected symbols, said processing means further incorporating calculating means, the calculating
15 means being operable to calculate (i) a main game win for a player by comparing the player-selected main game set for a game with the randomly-selected main game set for that game, and (ii) a bonus game win for a player by comparing a bonus symbol set formed by the symbols at a predetermined position in the sequences of the player-selected main game sets with a random
20 bonus game set formed by the symbols at a predetermined position in the sequences of the randomly-selected main game sets.

13. A stand-alone gaming machine comprising gaming apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, and a housing supporting the user interface and the processing means.

5 14. A multi-terminal gaming system comprising gaming apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, the multi-terminal system comprising a server formed by said processing means, and a plurality of user terminals each comprising a respective user interface.

10 15. An on-line gaming system comprising a multi-terminal gaming system according to claim 14, in which the terminals are remotely located with respect to each other.

15 16. A multi-terminal gaming system comprising gaming apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, the multi-terminal system comprising a server formed by said processing means, a plurality of user terminals each comprising a respective first display means and input means, and a display device including said second display means, the display device being visible to users of said terminals.

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17. Computer apparatus programmed to operate as a server for a multi-terminal system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16.